

Wabash Valley Correctional Facility looking for workers

Media Contact:

Department of Correction

Java Ahmed

(317) 234-1693

E-mail: jahmed@doc.in.gov

"There is a diverse inmate population, so we would like a diverse population of correctional officers. We want a staff that is professional, eclectic and diverse. Our commitment is to train them and lead them on to advance to better positions."

Commissioner, J. David Donahue

By Jo Chiparo, Staff Writer,

CARLISLE - More than 100 people attended the Indiana Department of Correction job fair at the Wabash Valley Correctional Facility on Saturday, and 50 applications were submitted.

Rich Larsen, public relations director, said after a pre-employment criminal background and drug test, the 50 applicants would seriously be considered for employment.

"This is the first time we have had a job fair," explained Joyce Wood, acting human resource director. "We need help. There are 38 officer vacancies and 29 other positions to fill including a chaplain, stores clerk, laundry room foreman, grounds foreman and maintenance foreman.

"We will continue to take applications until March 25 when we hope to have positions filled."

Wood added that the loss of employees was due to mines opening in the area and an expansion of the federal prison in Terre Haute.

Wood, a WVCF employee for 12 years, said offenders do most of the manual labor with supervision from staff, so jobs are not physically hard.

"I love my job here," noted Wood. "It is a very interesting place to work. It is like a small city within itself."

Other veteran employees at WVCF are Barbara Brock from Dugger, a correctional officer, and Natalee Woodward, supervisor of classifications, from Linton.

Both said there are not very many work places in the area that offer such good pay and benefits.

"I work with internal affairs and help with investigations," noted Brock. "It's exciting with something different every day. I love my job."

Woodward noted that she especially likes working at WVCF because it is a place where "you can help make a difference."

Speaking of his employees, J. David Donahue, commissioner for Department of Corrections, explained that the primary responsibility is to get good staff for public safety. Donahue added that jobs are promotional at Indiana Department of Corrections, so there is an excellent opportunity for advancement at the 32 facilities.

"I started as a correctional officer 26 years ago," said Donahue. "Not many people say, 'When I grow up, I want to be a correctional officer,' but after working at the job, I liked it and saw the opportunity for advancement."

Donahue added that he gets excited when new people come in with a new set of eyes.

"There is a diverse inmate population," noted Donahue, "so we would like a diverse population of correctional officers. We want a staff that is professional, eclectic and diverse. Our commitment is to train them and lead them on to advance to better positions."

Eager to be hired during the job fair, the long line of applicants represented areas from all over southern Indiana.

Mike Mason of Sullivan, a correctional officer at Putnamville, says he is tired of driving 62 miles every day and would like to work closer.

Rena Roulston, also from Sullivan, recently moved to the area from Texas and needs a job.

Roulston worked at a correctional facility while in Texas and says she likes "that type of work."

Out of work and needing a job, John Lowrance of Shelburn was applying for a job as a wastewater operator.

"I have a friend who works here, and I hear it is a good place to work," Lowrance said.

Applications may be filled on line at www.jobs.in.gov or for more information contact 1-866-DOC-HIRE.

Position requirements for correctional officers are three years of full-time general work experience, valid driver's license, and high school diploma/GED. An associate's or bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university can substitute for the required experience.

About The Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 24,000 adult and juveniles in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://www.in.gov/indcorrection>. The Department's Re-entry Site can be found: <http://www.reentry.in.gov>.